

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

As a young bike commuter from West Hartford to East Hartford, I support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. Please support HB 6840.

- Biking and walking connects users to the community in ways that driving never can. When I bike to work, I chat to with folks at stoplights, stop to take pictures of our beautiful city, and frequently take pit stops for a coffee or pint. When driving I pass right by Hartford while huffing and puffing about I-84 traffic.
- Great pieces of infrastructure exists, but funding is needed to connect the dots. The sidewalk on the RTE3 bridge is a great move, but useless without proper connections in Glastonbury and Wethersfield. The Riverwalk in East Hartford would make a great connector from the founders bridge to Goodwin College/ Pratt & Whitney, but stops short.
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- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you.

Regards,

Michael R. Swift

West Hartford, CT

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